(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the steps proposed to be taken on these suggestions and recommendations; and

(d) whether the Government are also aware of the plea made oy the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to adopt "hunger free scheme" at the National Level and include it in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Insurance Cover to Victims of Natural Calamities

2557. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether group insurance through Zila Parishads provides relief to the victims of natural calamities like that of the Andhra cyclone.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce compulsory group insurance in each district as a welfare measure against the natural disasters.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of insurance companies in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No Sir. There is no such scheme under implementation through Zila Parishads at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Lottery

2558. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a request from the Government of Delhi for banning the sale of lottery in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for sanctioning the ban on sale of Delhi Lottery tickets in Delhi;

(d) the time by which this proposal/request is likely to be implemented;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any assurance has been given by the Prime Minister to bring a legislation on banning the lottery business;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which this legislation is likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (h). The Chief Minister of National Capital Territory of Delhi has written to the Prime Minister seeking enactment of a Central legislation in order to ban the lottery trade. The matter is under examination.

Mustared Research Centres

2559. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of National Mustared Research Centres in Madhya Pradesh particularly at Murena and Bhind districts is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing the same and

(c) the time by which these Centres are likely to be set up in the said districts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCULDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) ICAR established a National Research Centre of Rapeseed & Mustard at Bharatpur in Rajasthan in 1993 with the mandate to coordinate research work on rapeseed & mustard in the country. A Mustard Centre is also currently in operation under the All India Coordinated Research Project in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh with a strength of six scientists and a budget of Rs. 15.93 lakhs (for 8th Plan) to cater to the needs of the farmers of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Control on Activities of NGOs

2560. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Central Government regarding indepeng functioning of NGOs in various social welfare schemes.

(b) whether the West Bengal State Government has desired to impose their own control on the ectivities of NGOs engaged in various welfare schemes in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?